

State of New Hampshire

By His Excellency

John H. Lynch, Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2008-1

**An order directing a freeze of Executive Branch hiring,
equipment purchases and out-of-state travel**

WHEREAS, RSA 9:16-b provides that “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of law, the governor may, with prior approval of the fiscal committee, order reductions in any or all expenditure classes within any or all departments, as defined in RSA 9:1, if he determines at any time during the fiscal year that: (a) Projected state revenues will be insufficient to maintain a balanced budget and that the likelihood of a serious deficit exists;”

WHEREAS, the Governor has determined that the budgeted state revenues for Fiscal Year 2008 are insufficient to fund state budgeted expenditures as authorized by Chapter 262, N.H. Laws of 2007;

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature are committed to taking such steps as are required to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the biennium;

WHEREAS, the Governor has met with the presiding officers of the House and Senate and has thus determined that it is in the public interest to meet with the legislative fiscal committee, which has, in turn, responded to the Governor’s initiative by consenting to certain actions to reduce executive branch expenditures;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by RSA 9:16-b and part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order the following steps to apply to all departments as defined in RSA 9:1 in order to effect a reduction in expenditures:

a. All full-time classified and unclassified employee positions funded in whole or in part by the general fund which are vacant on the effective date of the executive order or which become vacant after its effective date shall remain vacant, with the exception of direct care, custodial care and law enforcement positions. The appropriation for each such position shall be lapsed forthwith to the Salary Adjustment Fund, RSA 99:4, and the Employee Benefit Adjustment Account, RSA 9:17-c, as applicable.

b. No general fund monies appropriated for Class 30 Equipment shall be expended or encumbered except those encumbered by contract or purchase order on or before the date of this Executive Order.

c. No general fund monies appropriated for out-of-state travel shall be expended or encumbered on or after the date of this Executive Order.

d. The hiring, equipment, and out-of-state travel freezes directed by this order shall remain in effect until June 30, 2009 or until terminated earlier, provided, however, that individual exceptions to any of the above provisions may be requested by any department in writing to the Governor. Any exceptions granted by the Governor shall be transmitted to the fiscal committee.

Given under my hand and seal at the
Executive Chambers in Concord, this
__ day of February, in the year of our
Lord, two thousand eight.

Governor of New Hampshire